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Thursday, July 2, 2015

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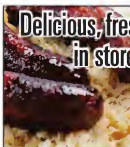
Doors close on Old Town school



After a final, emotional assembly on the last day of school, the doors of Parliament Oak closed for good last Thursday. The school, closed by the District School Board of Niagara, was the last one remaining in the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Students will be bused to Crossroads Public School in Virgil in September. For story please see Page 4.

Penny Coles/Niagara Advance

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Claim against town adjourned

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

A case in small claims court involving the Lincoln County Humane Society seeking \$25,000 from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake was adjourned Monday and rescheduled for Dec. 3.

It was adjourned because the number of cases to be heard did not leave enough time for the LCHS civil suit, which is expected to take a full day.

The dispute goes back to 2012, when Kevin Strooband, director of the humane society, alleges he continued to provide services to the town, without a signed agreement, on the understanding the town would be paying for those services, as it had for the last two decades.

At the end of 2011, the town staff had begun seeking contracts with service providers such as the LCHS rather than receiving bills for services rendered, and in January 2012, Strooband said

in response to the request he submitted a proposed contract to town CAO Mike Galloway.

The statement of claim the humane society provided to the court details correspondence back and forth with the town, trying to reach an agreement to provide services, and to recoup revenue for services that had been provided. In February 2012, the claim states town staff sent an email saying the humane society proposal would be reviewed, and the humane

society continued to provide services throughout the following months, including taking in 14 stray dogs.

In October 2012, still not having heard back from the town, or received payment, Strooband emailed asking for an update. The claim states he received a reply from then corporate services director Sheldon Randall saying the town wasn't in a position to pay without a formal agreement, and that the town had some concerns about the draft from Strooband and had "decided not to pursue extra services" from the humane society. But the LCHS had never been advised of that decision, or that there were issues with the draft agreement, Strooband said in the claim.

Unable to collect payment for



Kevin Strooband, director of the Lincoln County Humane Society, came to council in June 2013 looking for money he said was owed the humane society and to discuss a contract with the town. He got neither, and is seeking \$25,000 from the town in small claims court.

Niagara Advance file photo

2012, Strooband eventually appeared at a town council meeting in June 2013, appealing for a \$12,000 bill to be paid. At that time, he told council he was still waiting for information about the procurement process for services for 2013.

He was told at that meet-

ing the town didn't owe the humane society anything. Although Strooband's claim says he sent various requests to the town in the fall of 2013 asking to discuss a contract and the procurement process, the work was instead given to the Niagara Falls Humane Society.

The \$25,000 the humane society is seeking is for the amount for services provided that Strooband alleges has not been paid, and for the loss in revenue for the following year when he was unable to reach an agreement to provide services for the town.

Strooband said Monday he was disappointed in the adjournment.

"We were prepared to go to trial. We were hoping to have the matter settled. Unfortunately now we have to wait until December."

Lauren Angle, the lawyer representing the town, declined to comment.

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Town buses begin expanded St. Davids, Queenston routes

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

The town's pilot project for its expanded bus service begins today, with a route that leaves every hour from Queenston and picks up passengers in St. Davids, before heading to Glendale.

During last October's municipal election, residents in both villages spoke of an expanded transit system as a priority, and candidates agreed. It has been a fairly short turnaround time for town staff to work through the process, said St. Davids Ratepayers Association president Kenn Moody.

Members of the St. Davids association consulted with staff, and had some input into the stops, he said.

"We didn't want a route that would just drive up and down York Road, and fortunately that isn't going to happen."

The route takes buses through the new Cannery Park subdivision, and also through the Creekside Seniors Estates.

Although he's pleased to see the pilot project underway, members of the association have a concern that four months for a pilot project is not enough for a fair trial, and that starting during the summer means the college students won't be using it.

"It took more than a year before ridership on the original route really improved," Moody said. "Four months isn't that long for a pilot project. But we're pleased to see it start and we hope it will evolve as we get more information about it."

St. Davids resident Greg Walker, 72, is visually impaired and unable to drive, so he is delighted to see the new service.

He too has fears about the short pilot project, and is encouraging friends and neighbours to support the system and use the bus. "Use it or lose it," he tells them, and as it says on the ratepayers association web page, the town will be monitoring ridership on the new route and "it is critical that the number of users increases throughout the four-month trial period."

He says he will use it for doctor and dental appointments in Virgil and Garrison Village, and he would like to be able to visit friends in the Old Town, rather than always having them make the trip to St. Davids.

Although he is happy to have the service available, the downside is that he will have to take the bus from the Old Town to Glendale, and then transfer to an Old Town bus that returns through Virgil to the Community Centre. He commends the town, though, for ensuring the connections are timed so that the wait is just a few minutes.

"I think it will work for me. I understand there should be little or no waiting, and if they achieve that the service will be useful, that's really good news. For sure I'm going to use it, and I'm very excited. I really appreciate Lord Mayor Pat Darte and council for accomplishing this - they seem to have come through very quickly."

Although he is really anxious to try out the route locally, he can also foresee a time when he might make connections to St. Catharines transit, to the GO bus and then on to the GO train to visit family in Oakville.

It's also comforting to think the connection might be there in the future to take him to the St. Catharines hospital, should he need it, he says.

Queenston Ratepayers Association president Jim Armstrong said during a brief discussion at a recent meeting, a couple of residents who don't drive said they expect to use the new service.

But it was also mentioned that it would have been more useful to have a loop from Queenston to the Old Town and along Niagara Stone Rd. through Virgil, rather than taking residents to Glendale who would then have to transfer to get to the Old Town, says Armstrong.

"A circle route would have been better, but maybe not feasible," he said. "I guess we'll have to wait and see how many people use it. It's a worthwhile experiment, and we have to start with something, but it's possible it may not be used because it's not the route people want."

It's difficult for even cities like Toronto to provide affordable transit, "and we're just a tiny village," he said.

The route will leave Queenston, on Partition St. by the Laura Secord Homeside, hourly, beginning at 7:44 a.m., Monday to Saturday, says Marci Weston of the town's public works department. It will head through St. Davids, take a little tour through the village from Con. 3 to Line 9, through the Cannery Park subdivision, to Four Mile Creek Rd., then down to the Creekside Seniors Estates, with a short hop along Bunny Glen to Apricot Glen, and Tanbark Rd. back to York Rd. From there it heads to the Outlet Collection mall in Glendale and on Niagara College, where it arrives at 8:14 a.m.

The last bus arrives back in Queenston at 6:40 p.m.

The NOTL bus will connect with regional transit at the outlet mall, and with city buses from Niagara Falls and St. Catharines at the college, says Weston.

Based on the startup ridership of the Old Town-Glendale transit routes scaled to the population of the Queenston-Glendale pilot route, a minimum ridership of 500 passengers for the four-month trial is the benchmark the town is hoping to reach, says Weston.

The first month is free for people travelling on the Queenston to Glendale route; then it will be \$3 per trip, with free transfers.



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Parliament Oak closes its doors for last time

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

It was an emotional day at Parliament Oak School in Niagara-on-the-Lake last Thursday.

Students, teachers, staff and family members filled

the gymnasium for the last assembly on the last day of school to be held at Parliament Oak, which has been educating a community of kids for almost 70 years.

It was meant to be a morning to celebrate the achievements of the 110

students, and it was that.

But the tears were also flowing freely, and nobody was immune - there were parents and grandparents in the audience crying alongside former students and teachers; current teachers spoke from the heart about how much they were

going to miss the great kids and close-knit community; principal Jennifer McDowell stood with a box of Kleenex to hand out to them as they spoke. Sorrow over the closing of such a successful community school was evident, and among parents, many of whom fought the

closure decision, frustration was also apparent.

Each teacher spoke, said their goodbyes, talked about the school as a welcoming, close-knit family, and had high praise for the parents for being such an active and supportive group, and as one teacher

said, "for raising such amazing children."

Several teachers said this last year at Parliament Oak has been, and will likely be, the best year of their careers; McDowell said her time at the school "were three of what I'm sure will be most wonderful years of

my career," and council co-chairs Joy Janzen and Katherine Dodd were thanked for ensuring the students' last year was also their best.

Although the Old Town block where the school is located is often referred to as a property of historical significance, it's difficult to track down its origins.

The school opened in 1947, on a site that is often described as the location of the first parliament session of Upper Canada, held outside under an oak tree, and depicted on the stone carvings on the building. It also has a small bronze monument that recognizes Harriet Tubman and her determination to bring American slaves to Niagara and freedom, through the Underground Railroad.

See Page 5

This Saturday @ The Market

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Students will be in library at Crossroads if addition isn't completed on time

From Page 4

Although plans are underway for a private, not-for-profit community school in the Old Town - organizers would love to be able to use Parliament Oak - the location and number of students are still very much up in the air.

An addition to accommodate students at Crossroads Public School in Virgil should be underway by next week, says a board spokesperson.

The site plan for the addition was approved by NOTL town council Monday evening, although Coun. Paolo Miele tried to amend the approval to ask for an environmental assessment of the soil on the school property - he was too late in the process to introduce an amendment, he learned. Instead he appealed to the school board to go ahead with soil testing just to be sure - contaminated soil was found on the property bordering the school, he said, and he would like to ensure it isn't on the school property as well.

"There is no soil contamination at Crossroads," said District School Board of Niagara spokesperson Kim Yields.

The addition will be one-storey consisting of two classrooms, she said, one for homeroom use, and the other to give the school an extra classroom for flexible

use, for a total of 23 classrooms.

The project will also provide additional lockers for students and extra parking for visitors, she said.

While five Parliament Oak teachers are moving to Crossroads, some of the teachers at that school are moving on to other locations, she said.

Should the addition not be completed for the first day of school, said Yields, the class that will be in the new wing will use the school library.



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Comment



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The
Niagara Advance

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Point of View

Region must show leadership on governance

A collection of local business owners caused quite a stir last week when they got together with a committee of regional politicians.

To no one's surprise, reducing waste, debt, duplication of services and taxes were high on the agenda. We can all get behind this. But how do we achieve it? That part of the conversation left most politicians diving for cover.

One Niagara.

Yes, there it was again — the plan that will accomplish all of the above (so it says in the tycoon playbook). Let's have one government and reap the benefits that will surely follow: One fire department, one place for public works, one mayor, one bureaucracy, one business development office — one everything. On top of that, let's take advantage of the opportunity to push a few politicians overboard from an already over-governed ship.

Aside from the parochial sentiments of a few folks clinging to a sentimental past, how can any of this be a bad thing? We really don't know. And herein lies the initial problem with the whole debate that has been hanging over our collective heads for years.

Aside from a few of the people we elect to the Region, not many will even engage in a conversation about governance.

For four years, former chairman Gary Burroughs, not a one-Niagara guy himself, attempted to kick start a

discussion on the topic. Maybe it would have led to one city. Maybe not. But at least we could have seen and heard the arguments and moved the process along.

Burroughs convened a number of meetings during the previous term of office, brought in facilitators, imploded those around him to treat the matter seriously and with open minds. He might as well have been taking orders for dinner.

What is the right way to go?

Sure, there are politicians solidly in the one-Niagara camp: many of them from St. Catharines and many assuming that the biggest city would claim much of the new power. Not everything they say is gospel. It's similarly true for those who believe the Region should be run like a company. What's good for business isn't always good for the people.

But those who resolutely cling to the notions of a 12-municipality Niagara must also be willing to give up their strident and outdated thinking.

We can only find the common ground and the common good by talking about it. By overcoming obstacles. By pushing forward. That's the kind of leadership we need and that is the kind of leadership that is sorely lacking from our councillors and from the chairman's office.

— Peter Conradi

Library plaque rededicated



The NOTL Public Library celebrated its 215th anniversary with the grand opening of the NOTL Community Garden and the relocation of the library's historic plaque to Anderson Lane. The library is also celebrating the 200th anniversary of its re-opening in 1815 after it was burned during the War of 1812. The original library garden was the result of the hard work and dedication of former library board member Robert Allen. The new Community Garden honours his legacy and begins a new era as the garden fence has come down to welcome residents and visitors and to connect the library with their neighbours at the community centre. Unveiling the plaque are library board chair Andrew Porteus, Ontario Heritage Trust marketing manager Alan Wojcik, chief librarian Cathy Simpson and Lord Mayor Pat Darte.

Letters to the Editor

Heritage tax rebate requires referendum

In place and some new faces in the council chamber, I suppose it's no surprise that advocates of a property tax break for owners of heritage homes are pushing their cause again. It's still a bad idea.

There's a fundamental principle of fairness here. It

simply cannot be right for the owners of what are, in general, the priciest properties in town to be subsidized by the rest of us.

People who spend the kind of money it takes to buy one of the town's heritage properties these days are surely aware of the responsibilities they are taking on. They can't seriously expect to be allowed to change the rules in their own favour after the fact.

The recent meeting on the issue at the commu-

nity centre has only muddied the issue further.

The so-called survey that was presented, supposedly showing that greater heritage funding is supported both by heritage property owners and by the rest of the populace, might qualify as the least scientific opinion poll ever conducted.

No attempt was made to ensure that a random sample of the town's population was surveyed. Respondents to the online poll simply self-identified

as heritage property owners or otherwise, which makes the responses unreliable. It also appears that a significant number of the responses came from people who aren't even residents of the town.

This survey cannot and must not be used as a basis for an important policy decision.

And what are we to make of the heritage property owner at the meeting who opined that he (or she) is really the "stew-

ard" of the property, with the residents of Niagara being the real owners. Does that mean we all get to share in the capital gain when the property next changes hands?

We all want to see the fabric of the town preserved. The existing grant programme, to help owners of heritage properties with the high cost of maintaining their properties, is clearly inadequate in size, and should be increased as the town's finances per-

mit. Simply giving heritage home owners a property tax break, with no real assurance that the money will be invested in the property, is a very expensive non-starter.

John Kirkby seems to have the right idea here. If Council wants to take this matter further, it should instruct staff to produce a fully costed proposal, and then put it to voters in a referendum.

James Webber

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OUR LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, all letters must include the writer's full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes. Only your name and the city/town where you live will be published. Please keep your comments to a maximum of 500 words. Submit your letters via e-mail to: penny.coles@sunmedia.ca

Opinion

letters to the editor

Commons belongs to all Canadians

I got a real kick out of letters complaining about the venue and noise associated with the Mumford and Sons concert held in the Commons.

May I remind letter writers that the land the concert was held on is funded and owned by all the people of Canada, but primarily used virtually for free by the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

I think it is inappropriate for anyone to complain about the few times a year that the Commons is used for the purpose of having a rock concert, a Scout Jamore, fundraisers or

any activity that benefits other Canadians.

We residents of NOTL should count our blessings that these venues are made available to us courtesy of all Canadians.

Sometimes I think we complain too much for occasional inconveniences and we are thankful too little for the benefits the people of Canada provide us with.

Sheldon Ehrenworth

Thanks for garden tour support

On behalf of the Shaw Guild we would like to thank our neighbours in Niagara-on-the-Lake for

their role in welcoming to our town the many visitors attending the 10th annual Shaw Garden Tour on June 6.

This was a record-breaking year for the tour, with more than 1,300 people in attendance, not only from the Niagara area, but also other parts of Ontario and the U.S.

The weather that day was a bonus, but the support of our community is a huge part of this success. Visitors remarked on the beauty of the town, the wonderful restaurants and shops, and their overall delight in spending a perfect summer day in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Arlene Carlson,
President of Shaw Guild

Don't miss garden tour

The grass is green and we have not had to do much watering.

That is me starting off on a positive note. As gardeners we are really being challenged. Can you imagine how the gardeners who are inviting us to come and view their gardens as part of the Horticultural Society's Garden Tour this Saturday are feeling? As one friend put it, "I keep checking in case my garden floats away - so far we have pumped out the little pond twice."

Yes, that is what gives us the challenge - can't make it too easy.

I notice that the stella d'oro (daylilies) are look-



Jean Cochrane
Happy Gardening

years ago - the one I thought grew to seven feet? In fact it said seven metres.

Well things are looking good but it is in among the wisteria as I was more interested in covering the arch over the patio and from that point of view I have been successful, there are grapes.

So I will await inspiration, after all that is what gardening is all about.

Remember to get your tickets for the Garden Tour Saturday, at any of the gardens on the tour or several stores in town. Visit www.northhortsociety.com/gardentour for more details.

Happy gardening.

ing very good but if this keeps up they may become water lilies.

Now some of you may recall that I mentioned I bought a grape vine a few

Vacation Rental Garden of the Year



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Vacation Rental Association is supporting the town's initiative to once again be crowned Prettiest Town in Canada by supporting the NOTL Communities in Bloom program. While the Communities in Bloom criteria is quite extensive, members' vacation homes' front gardens were judged using simpler criteria: neat and tidy, garden curb appeal, colour and blending into the surrounding streetscape. The judges are Gabe Takach (left), former Lord Mayor Dave Eke and Mary Scott (sitting), with Tony Chisholm, Kevin Turcotte and Coun. Betty Disero of the Communities in Bloom committee and Janet Trogon of the vacation rental association. Green thumbs up to the 2015 winner, the Andrew Logan House owned by Trish and Dave Anthony, at 67 Ricardo St.

Garden of the Week



The owners of this week's winning garden are Dave and Marilyn Hulbert of Bunny Glen in St. Davids. The judges say this garden appears like a painting, enticing the visitor to enter and enjoy the beautiful flow of colours and contrast of textures. The flowers swaying in the wind lend movement and fragrance to the surrounding area while carefully selected rocks are strategically placed throughout the garden to add to its dimension. The Garden of the Week competition is an initiative of Communities in Bloom, intended to foster civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement. Communities are evaluated on tidiness, environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscape and floral displays. To nominate a garden please email lkulchar@notl.org.



Keeping Our Community Connected - New Queenston Glendale Route Announced

Niagara-on-the-Lake Transit has introduced a pilot bus service from Queenston to Glendale commencing Thursday, July 2, 2015. This new service, which offers free ridership for the first month, is scheduled to end Saturday, October 31.

This fully-accessible hourly service will run from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, excluding statutory holidays. Major connection points include the Community Centre, The Outlet Collection at Niagara, Niagara College Glendale Campus, and the Laura Secord Homestead.

Following free service in July, fare will be \$3 cash one-way with free transfers to all NOTL Transit routes. Children under 6 will continue to ride for free. Fee-for-service connections are also available to St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, and Welland via Niagara Regional Transit, Niagara College Student Transit (NCSAT), and WEGO. Further details are available on the Town's website at www.notl.org on the NOTL Transit page.

The buses are equipped with bike racks and stroller/walker storage. Detailed bus stop and schedule information will be coming soon. Stay tuned as well for details on passenger information tours of the new route.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TRANSIT SUMMER SCHEDULE (effective Thursday, July 2, 2015)

Heritage-Old Town				Old Town-Glendale				Queenston-Glendale			
(Mon-Sat except holidays)				(Mon-Sat except holidays)				(Mon-Sat except holidays)			
OUTBOUND		INBOUND		OUTBOUND		INBOUND		OUTBOUND		INBOUND	
Leave Community Centre		Arrive Court House 1		Leave Community Centre		Arrive Niagara College Glendale		Leave Laura Secord Homestead		Arrive Laura Secord Homestead	
7:45 AM	7:55		7:43 AM	7:46 AM	7:53	8:14	8:15 AM	7:44 AM	7:53	8:10	8:14
8:15 AM	8:25		8:01 AM	8:16 AM	8:23	8:14	8:15 AM	8:16 AM	8:28	8:10	8:14
			8:34 AM	8:43							
and every 30 minutes until 9:45 AM				and every 30 minutes until 9:45 AM				and every 60 minutes until 9:45 AM			
9:45 AM	9:53	10:00 AM	10:04	9:46 AM	9:53	10:08 AM	10:14	9:44 AM	9:53	10:10 AM	10:15
10:16 AM	10:25	10:30 AM	10:34	10:16 AM	10:23	10:38 AM	10:44	10:16 AM	10:23	10:38 AM	10:44
and every 30 minutes until 5:05 PM				and every 30 minutes until 5:05 PM				and every 30 minutes until 5:05 PM			
5:05 PM	5:55	6:00	5:00 PM	5:06 PM	6:00	6:14	6:18 PM	5:04 PM	5:58	6:10	6:14
								* Last trip only			

Little Free Library trend right at home in NOTL

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

It's one of a growing trend that has reached Niagara-on-the-Lake - a Little Free Library, one of more than 25,000 around the world helping to promote a love of reading and a sense of community.

It looks like it could be a bird house, or something decorative, until you get close enough to see through the glass door and scan the titles of the previously read and loved books lined up neatly on two shelves, calling out to be borrowed by passers-by.

This particular library was built by Old Town resident Bruce Gitelman, and started by his wife Wendy.

It's registered and official, which means the Gitelmans are part of a movement which began in 2009, by a man in Wisconsin, who built a model of a one-room schoolhouse, filled it with books and put it out in his front yard. It was a tribute to his mother, a former school teacher who loved reading. When the Wisconsin man discovered his friends and neighbours loved it, he kept building them and giving them away, each with a sign that said "free books".

In the following year, he and a partner formed a not-for profit company that offers library kits with several different designs, a sign and a registration process so the library can be included on a map that locates them worldwide.

The goal is to promote literacy and the love of reading while building a sense of community, with a "take a book, return a book" policy that

offers an opportunity for neighbours to share their favourites.

Anybody can set up their own library for free, using plans available online, or pay for a kit. To register you can buy a sign for a one-time fee of \$35 and put the library on the website map.

The Gitelmans first saw a Little Free Library in Toronto, and when they bought their NOTL home on Front St., thought the community was the perfect place to introduce the concept.

They have lots of neighbours who are readers, and wanted to share the books they had read and thought others would enjoy, said Bruce.

They have also found visitors to town exchanging books.

It's designed to hold about 20 books. Wendy took some time contemplating the selection she stocked it with initially, included books she had read and liked, and trying for a mix of fiction and non-fiction, even "dog stuff".

The selection is constant-

ly changing, says Bruce, with everything from very heavy to light reading showing up.

While they are both readers, Bruce said his books are scientific, not the kind most people would be likely to pick up, so Wendy looks after it.

It requires a little bit of time for curating - it's suggested to stewards of these libraries that adult, religious and political books are not appropriate, but he says there have been no issues so far. Also, so far, he adds, no vandalism.

Children's books are popular, not surprising since the visibility of families with young children is increasing in the Old Town, he says.

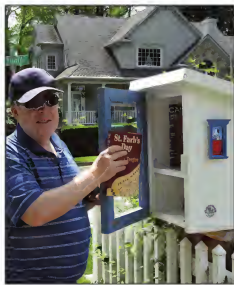
The Gitelmans like to think of it as a community library, which is one of the goals of the founders. And being stewards gives them pleasure - an opportunity to meet and chat with their neighbours, to talk to tourists who are staying close by who exchange books, says Bruce. It also provides a varied supply of constantly-

changing reading material, right at their doorstep.

And unlike other forms of entertainment, it appears to draw people in a power outage - when the lights went out for about two and a half hours last Wednesday evening, said Bruce, there was a crowd around the little library - "a back-up plan - books that don't require batteries. Very retro and decadent."

Learn how to become part of the book-sharing movement at littlefreelibrary.org.

Bruce Gitelman returns a book he said he enjoyed reading: *St. Paul's Day* by Canadian humourist Morley Torogov. Gitelman borrowed the book from the Little Free Library he put up for neighbours.



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The program commenced on June 4, 2015 and will continue until October 9, 2015.

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3 bedroom brick bungalow with eat in kitchen and attached single car garage, New A/C, furnace, shingles & sump pump. Great starter home!!!

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Catherine O'Donnell of Willow Cakes and Pastries put the finishing touches on animals made of chocolate paste Monday, each representing a National Hockey League team. They will sit atop the Canada Day cake, with two cheerleaders to cheer them on. The cake was to be led by a parade to Simcoe Park Wednesday. The cake's 95 sheets were baked Tuesday and assembled to provide 3,000 pieces to the crowd gathered to celebrate Canada Day in the park. Although O'Donnell has been making the Canada Day cake for 10 years, she expected to be nervous once it was time to load the cake on the trailer that takes it to the park, she said.

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Planche wins Liberal nomination in Niagara riding

Ray Spiteri
Niagara Falls Review

Ron Planche is ready to take on one of Canada's political heavyweights.

The Niagara Falls resident will carry the Liberal banner in this riding during this year's federal election.

Planche, who worked for eight years as executive assistant to former Niagara Falls Liberal MPP Kim Cralton, defeated Dean Demizio and Jim Curran during a nomination meeting of party members Monday night.

Planche will challenge incumbent Conservative

MP Rob Nicholson, who is also Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

"Obviously it's going to be difficult. I won't minimize the challenge," said Planche.

"My sense is if we can rally all the people in the riding that a change in direction is needed — if we can coalesce behind a single opposition candidate, then we can send a message to the (Prime Minister Stephen) Harper government."

"This election will not be about Rob Nicholson, it will be about (Harper)."

A federal election has to be held on Oct. 19, unless

the Governor General of Canada on the advice of the prime minister calls an election before then.

Nicholson announced in January he will once again represent the governing Conservatives in the Niagara Falls riding, which also includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie, as the party's nominated candidate.

Steven Soos, a 20-year-old Welland resident, will represent the Green Party.

The New Democrats have not named its candidate.

Planche said he is "absolutely delighted" to have won the Liberal nomination,

adding he led on the first ballot and increased support on the second ballot.

He will campaign on the real issues facing riding constituents, such as securing employment and job opportunities and promoting a "different way of governing this country, a way that focuses on our youth, seniors and ourselves," he said.

Planche said there has been an erosion of jobs and opportunities in Niagara during the last 10 years, and youth are going to university or college in the region, but then leaving Niagara to look for work.

"Our kids are leaving and not coming back."

Planche said the federal government should be making "strategic infrastructure investments," ones that will create jobs and opportunities, such as helping in the ongoing push to bring year-round GO train service to the region.

"We've got to stop investing in garages and start investing in infrastructure that matters."

Planche has a professional background in sales and marketing communications, government relations and photojournalism.



Ron Planche will represent the Liberals for Niagara Falls, NOTL and Fort Erie in the next federal election.
Niagara Falls Review file photo

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104-106 NIAGARA STREET \$1,050,000



A superior 3.54 acre property situated on the edge of the urban boundary surrounded by mature and new trees and backing onto a creek. The new parcel of land is a 1200 square foot brick bungalow home as well as a 1400 square foot guest cottage and a 1400 square foot workshop/boat shed located offering a country setting within the old town of Niagara on the Lake. MLS K30040877, Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.

10 QUEEN STREET \$2,500,000



This state of the art facility known as "The Fethall" has been completely reconstructed in 2009 to offer modern amenities and has also preserved its original heritage appeal. It is zoned for use as a restaurant and retail store and requires low long term maintenance. MLS K30045122, Victoria Boudic and Thomas Elliott.

331 WILLIAM STREET \$564,000



Updated multi-level home in great location close to lake, parks and short walk to shops, restaurants and theatre. Home is lovingly maintained with upgraded features throughout set on deep lot with mature trees and professionally landscaped gardens. MLS K30063135, Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.

175 QUEEN STREET #2 \$679,000



Custom designed elegant open concept town home located in the heart of town. Features three bedrooms, 3+ bath, finished lower level, private garage, Mary Ann features, a rare find! MLS K30045510, Victoria Boudic and Sarah Glavin.

530 BUTLER STREET \$799,900



Wonderful 4 bedroom (all ensuites) home located on a large park like property close to walking trails, kitchen open to the back yard. This home at present is a licensed 3 bdrm B&B. Trish Basham.

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16006 NIAGARA RIVER PW \$459,000-\$519,000



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Clunker cars help needy

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

There's a right way and a wrong way to recycle older, unwanted vehicles.

Wally Dingman of Caughill Auto Wreckers says he wants to see vehicles disposed of properly, in the way that is environmentally responsible, and to encourage people to choose that route, he is asking people to donate their unwanted cars to Newark Neighbours.

Donors get a free tow to Caughill, a tax receipt for the value of the car and the satisfaction of knowing the vehicle that has served them well will not only support a good cause, helping the needy on Niagara-on-the-Lake, but will not add more damage to the environment while being crushed.

As chair of the Ontario Automotive Recyclers Association, Dingman has for several years to have provincial leg-

islation passed that would regulate how old cars are handled, he says. "We're not there yet, but we're close."

Meanwhile, there are auto wreckers that continue to crush cars without removing all the fluids, including fuel, engine oil, brake and transmission fluid, antifreeze and air conditioning refrigerants, which soak into the ground during crushing. It's faster, more economical, but very damaging to the environment, said Dingman.



Wally Dingman of Caughill Auto Wreckers is asking for donations of old cars, with the value being donated to Newark Neighbours.

For the unscrupulous, it's an easy way to make unreported cash - all you need is a tow truck, he says, to haul a car to a metal scrap yard, and in those cases the car ownership isn't legally changed.

The recycling association supports a national program called Car Heaven, which has retired more than 130,000 cars responsibly in the last 15 years.

It ensures cars are recycled responsibly and its value donated to a registered charity. Dingman is localizing that program by donating the money to Newark Neighbours so it stays in the community.

"As a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident all my life, I have seen the great work Newark Neighbours does and as a business owner want to support them in any way we can."

He ensures the Canadian Auto Recyclers' environmental code is followed - the code he hopes will soon be legislation - removing oil, gasoline, refrigerants, mercury switches and tires from vehicles, and salvaging and reselling any useable parts.

It's good for business, good for the environment, and if legislated, would put all auto recyclers on a level playing field, he says.

Newark Neighbours is a local charity with a food bank and a thrift store to help those in need in Niagara-on-the-Lake. For more information or to have a car towed call Caughill at 905-934-1941.



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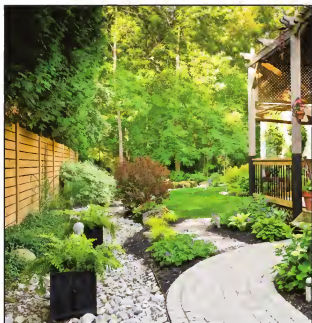
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The garden of Linda Murray and Sonny Zelenkovich on Bay Berry Lane is part of the 24th Annual NOTL Horticultural Society's Garden Tour this Saturday, July 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The self-guided tour showcases 13 gardens, including a tour of St. Mark's Anglican Church arboretum in their historic cemetery. All proceeds go toward developing local public garden spaces, creating flower arrangements for seniors, offering bursaries, encouraging plant exchanges and organizing lectures of horticultural interest. Tickets are \$10 and are available at each garden Saturday online at <http://www.nothorticalsociety.com/gardentour> or at locations around town, including Mori Gardens.

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Local pharmacist named chair of provincial association

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

As a pharmacist and hands-on owner or co-owner of four pharmacies, Sean Simpson is a busy man.

Add to that the joy of being a family man who wants to be involved in the lives of his two youngsters,

involved and ensure pharmacists across Ontario can continue to give back to their communities and to their patients. It's important for independent pharmacists to ensure if others want to take that path, they can," he says.

If his children, Natalie and Luke, decide one day to become pharmacists, as

Niagara Falls, he's dealt with a flood at his King St. location and yet another burglary on Niagara Stone Rd., a reality that comes along with the business of stocking and selling pharmaceuticals.

Finding the right balance for what's important can be challenging, he says, but he's learning to prioritize appropriately, and it's not as if he doesn't have help - his wife Stephanie is a great mom and grandparents on both sides are close by and able to help out, he says.

"But I still do my best to be home as much as I can and not let work and other commitments dominate."

He knows his work load will increase as he takes on more responsibilities as chair of the pharmacists association.

"Pharmacists have the opportunity to do so much more than we currently do," he says, referencing recent advances with flu shots and other vaccinations now done at much less cost by a pharmacist than a family doctor, and prescription renewal without a visit to a doctor.

He's hoping pharmacists in Ontario will soon have the ability to diagnose minor ailments and prescribe medicine, rather than being limited to over-the-counter remedies.

"People come to us as pharmacists now for assessment, but our ability to provide optimal treatment is limited," says Simpson.

"The health care system is so strained. If we

increase the scope of our practice, such as through prescription renewal, we can reduce that strain. Physicians are more than adequately trained to access and assist. We're trying to promote a scenario where provincial dollars are saved, health care is more accessible and there are fewer visits

to emergency rooms."

His other challenge will be to continue to increase membership in the association, as the government continues to put pressure on the revenue of pharmacists, he says.

"We have to show pharmacists that there is value in being an OPA member, and

we have to be advocates for the role of pharmacists to the government."

He is also focused on protecting the right of patients to choose their pharmacist, as more insurance plans impose limits on that choice, he said.

"That's a practise we think should be protected."



Sean Simpson, owner or co-owner of four pharmacies in Niagara, is now chair of the Ontario Pharmacists Association. Penny Coles/Niagara Advance

and you begin to see that life could be a bit of a juggling act for him.

Simpson, a third-generation pharmacist, grew up in a family where his parents set an example of being involved in community and also giving back to an industry that gave them their livelihood, so it seems natural to him to add those commitments to the juggling act.

"My parents have always shown me the importance of giving back to your community, and to your profession - a profession that has given our family great opportunities to make a living, and has provided for our family for three generations. I feel it's time for me to get

Sean and his sister Lisa did, "I don't want to feel I have to talk them out of it," he says.

Recently, after two years on the Ontario Pharmacists Association's board of directors serving on several different committees, he has become chair of the organization that advocates on behalf of his profession and its clients.

The role of a pharmacist has changed in recent years, but those changes are just first steps toward taking more of an active part in health care, and he wants to help guide that journey.

Simpson has had an eventful few months - in addition to becoming a co-owner of two pharmacies in

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NOTL chop shop owner found guilty

Bill Sawchuk
Postmedia Network

In the end, it was a stolen transport truck — tracked with its own GPS device — that unraveled George Tsigirlash's criminal activities.

A thief smashed the GPS but hadn't done his work well enough. The device was still transmitting. It tracked the truck going directly from the site of its theft in Brampton to Tsigirlash's auto shop in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Tsigirlash, 46, owner of Auto Enterprises Inc. in Niagara-on-the-Lake, was convicted recently of 40 counts of possession of stolen property and two counts of fraud by justice James Ramsay in a Superior Court trial in St. Catharines.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake man was running a luxury vehicle chop shop that, among other things, produced what are known on the street as Frankenautos.

Tsigirlash's attorney, Geoff Hadfield, said he couldn't comment on the proceedings until after his client is sentenced Aug. 13 in Superior Court in St. Catharines.

The stolen Freightliner Transport was parked in a yard in the suburb of Toronto the night of May 12, 2011, the written judgement said.

When the driver returned a short time later, the truck was gone. The driver called the

trucking company. The transport was tracked to the Auto Enterprises yard at 620 Lincoln Ave. in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The truck went straight there, arriving shortly before midnight.

The next day the police, armed with a search warrant, arrived at Auto Enterprises Inc. They found the truck. Someone had replaced the ignition. A new key was in the cab.

Tsigirlash took the stand in his own defence at his trial, which ran for 12 days. Ramsay ended up rejecting much of his testimony, and that of his shop manager Danny Vrbacek.

Vrbacek testified Tsigirlash had pulled back from the day-to-day operations in 2010.

"I have no doubt that Mr. Tsigirlash knew everything that was going on at Auto Enterprises," Ramsay said in his written decision. "His employees and contractors were not on troikas of their own. If it happened at Auto Enterprises, the boss knew, whether it was repairs or a sale that happened there."

"In my assessment, the circumstantial evidence that Mr. Tsigirlash was deliberately running a stolen car and parts operation is compelling. It, too, prevents me from believing Tsigirlash and Vrbacek, I think Vrbacek knew just as much as his boss did. I reject their evidence, both of them."

Tsigirlash testified the

Freightliner had been delivered to the lot for repairs. He did not know it was stolen.

Telephone records show several calls from the thief to Tsigirlash on the evening the truck was stolen, ending shortly after midnight.

Tsigirlash said he was having dinner and a swim at his club, but the thief kept pestering him to come to the yard to open the gate and put the truck on the lot.

Finally Tsigirlash did and let the thief know by telephone.

"This was not a joy ride," Ramsay said. "Someone stole a transport tractor and drove it straight to the yard. A thief would not take the truck to a legitimate repair shop and hide it by duping the repairman."

"(The thief) stole the truck and he took it straight to Tsigirlash. He incessantly telephoned one of us but Mr. Tsigirlash. He did not telephone Vrbacek, who had a key, or Rodica Tsigirlash, who had a key. He telephoned George. Of course the accused knew that his truck had just been stolen."

The investigation into the stolen truck led to further investigations and police, armed with a new set of search warrants, descended on the salvage yard and two other Niagara-on-the-Lake properties on June 21, 2011.

See Page 23

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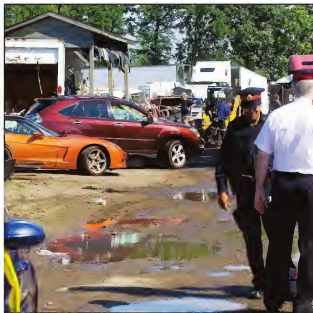
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Niagara Regional Police were on the scene of Auto Enterprises, a chop shop in Niagara-on-the-Lake for several days in June 2011. They hauled away in trucks more than \$5 million worth of parts and vehicles, including many luxury brands, such as BMW, Porsche and Mercedes. The haul included 60 stolen, chopped vehicles and more than 200 high-end vehicles that had been stripped of their components.

Julie Jocsak/St. Catharines Standard

Piecing together vehicles compromises safety, says NRP

From Page 22

They found parts and vehicles worth more than \$5 million, many from luxury brands, such as BMW, Porsche and Mercedes. The haul included 60 stolen, chopped vehicles and more than 200 high-end vehicles that had been stripped of their components.

At the time of the raid, police said so-called Frankenautos were being created.

"In general the police found a significant number of parts from expensive vehicles that appear to have been cleanly cut into pieces, as opposed to being smashed in an accident," court documents said.

There were several chopped and stripped cars ... that is, quarters or eighths of a unibody were found thrown into high grass at the rear,

more private end of the property. There were a number of doors and windshields that had been crammed into three transport trailers. In the front part of the yard there were a number of vehicles, generally older, and wrecks that were legitimate."

At the time of the raid, Det. Const. Dave Maryniuk explained that the culprits would get stolen high-end vehicles and buy two or more wrecks of the same make and model. They would then chop the stolen vehicle in half or quarters before piecing it together with parts from the junkers.

Not only does that make it difficult for law enforcement to detect the stolen vehicle, it also milks more profit out of the theft.

The practice makes the auto extremely unsafe, said NRP Sgt.

Dave Shennan at the time of the raid.

When vehicles are pieced together, it compromises safety sensors, airbags and the overall structural integrity of the vehicle.

As part of the racket, he said, fake structural inspections were done, fraudulently approving the vehicles as safe.

In other cases, unsuspecting people bought vehicles that were stolen and had VIN numbers replaced with ones taken from junkyard cars.

Tsigirlash testified he knew nothing about the car parts, or truck parts or van parts or engines found by police.

Tsigirlash was found not guilty on three counts of possession of stolen property and one count of possession of stolen property was stayed.

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On Sunday, local teen Scott Robinson is hosting Concert For The Cure In Simcoe Park, a free concert from noon to 3 p.m. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets full of snacks. The bands performing are: Back In The Daze (pictured above), offering 60s and 70s rock and roll; Frank's Bus Brass Band featuring New Orleans-style brass band, all youth 21 and under; and Mason Vail, indie acoustic artists from St. Catharines. The concert is in support of the Canadian Cancer Society, through Kayak For The Cure Niagara, organized by Robinson, a teen from NOTL who plans to kayak across Lake Ontario in August with a goal of raising \$10,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. His 52-kilometre journey is expected to take between 12 and 16 hours. Visit www.KayakForTheCureNiagara.com for more information.

Photo submitted



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Edwin Infante, owner of Niagara-area McDonald's Restaurant franchises, donated \$15,000, the McHappy Day proceeds from the NTL restaurant and one of his St. Catharines locations, to Red Roof Retreat, which offers respite care, summer camp and day programs to special needs kids and young adults. Red Roof staff and clients (sitting, from left) Gregory Burton, Lyndsay Walker, Red Roof founder and executive director Steffanie Bjorgan, Naomi Willott, Meaghan Flander and Darren Mook, (standing, left) Charlie Rookley, Jonathan Lotz and Red Roof event co-ordinator Claire Ellsworth, receive the cheque from Sue Smith and Daniele Infante of McDonald's, with Katelyn Ings, Kristen Walker, Glenda Edgar and Kaitlin Kirkwood.

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Music Niagara's 17th season opens with cello phenom

Chris Blake
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The 17th season of Music Niagara opens Saturday, July 11 at St. Mark's Church with the young Canadian cello prodigy Stéphane Tétrault.

At 21 years of age, he has already achieved an incredibly impressive resume of performances, awards and recordings.

His work has garnered great praise from the world's leading music critics citing his immaculate sense of technique as well as his astonishing maturity, brilliance and subtlety of colour and inflection.

Tétrault will play a recital of works by Haydn, Schumann and Tchaikovsky and then join Music Niagara's Camerata Ensemble, led by Music Niagara Artistic Director Atis Bankas in Schubert's acclaimed final masterpiece, the Cello Quintet in C major.

Tétrault will be playing his Stradivarius – Bernard Greenhouse's cello, the 1707 Countess of Stulzein, ex-Paganini, which is on loan to him by the arts patron and mentor, Tétrault Jacqueline Desmarais of Montreal.

His debut CD was nominated as the Best Classical Album of the Year at the 2013 ADISQ Gala, an annual Quebec awards ceremony for musicians and singers.

His second CD was released in the spring of 2015 and he made his debut at the Auditorium of the Louvre Museum in March 2015.

Music Niagara will pres-

ent a summer season of 40 concerts and events between July 11 and Aug. 9. The program offers a mix of classical, jazz, choral, vocal and country music in many locations in and around Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The classical lineup includes The Vienna Piano Trio, Canadian pianist André Laplante, a Mozart Double Bill, an evening of Baroque arias by counter-tenor Michael Taylor and a winery concert by CBC Radio host Julie Nesralah.

Choral offerings include the Elora Festival Singers and the Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal in a concert of music from the Sistene Chapel.

In a new partnership with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the BPO will appear on Monday, July 20 at the Shaw Festival Theatre, led by music director JoAnn Falletta in a varied program including guest soloist, violinist Atis Bankas, Music Niagara's artistic director.

The jazz program includes the return of the very popular Toronto All Star Big Band at Ravine Vineyards and a New Orleans Night at St Mark's with Toronto's Excelsior Dixieland Jazz Band.

On Monday, July 27, the great Canadian clarinetist James Campbell will assemble a group of jazz masters to recreate the heyday of Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw and on Saturday, Aug. 1 Music Niagara presents an insight into the relationship between jazz and classical music with works by Ravel, Gershwin and Claude Bolling.

The Saturday night at The

Epicurean Jazz series continues as does the series of world music in Simcoe Park

on Sunday afternoons, or the second year Music Niagara will be offering its

innovative training program for young musicians, the Music Niagara Performance Academy.

Students in the Academy will be playing at the Young Virtuoso concerts on Aug. 1

and 8.

Information on the season is available at the website musicniagara.org and tickets are available through the Shaw Festival box office at 905-468-2172.



Stéphane Tétrault, a 21-year-old cellist, will open Music Niagara's 17th season. Photo submitted



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The Chamber of the Commerce's Janice Thomson
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invite you to attend a
Signing Party for the new publication
"Streets of Niagara".
Fred Habermacht & Donald E. Combs explore
the origins of the street names in old Niagara on the Lake.
Books of this limited printing will be available for \$20
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The Market Room of the Court House,
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Watercolour florals at Pumphouse

During the month of July
The Niagara Pumphouse
Arts Centre will be featuring
artworks by Beverly Sneath.

She is a self-developed
artist who works from her
studio in Ridgeville.
Watercolour is her preferred
medium and watercolour
floral paintings comprise
the majority of this exhibition.

Recurring themes in her
work include serenity, the
beauty, complexity and simplicity
of nature, love, family
and spirituality.

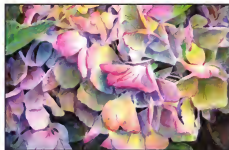
Sneath explains that she
paints because "I have a
need for the way it adds balance
to my life. I think of
painting as a language.
When I see something that
catches my eye I want to
interpret it into a visual language,
a translation to the
medium of painting."



Rima Boles
@ the Pumphouse

Visit to see her visual language
represented in watercolour,
acrylic and bronze.
We will be hosting an opening
reception for this exhibition
Sunday, July 5, at 2 p.m.

This exhibition ends Aug.
2 with the last chance to see
this show during Art by the
Lighthouse, Aug. 1 and 2.



Beverly Sneath's Hydrangeas and other watercolours will be
on display at the Niagara Pumphouse during July.

Photo submitted


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Bubble soccer an adventurous fundraiser for Red Roof

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Red Roof Retreat staff were thinking about providing something new and different as a fundraiser, when MoveLight.com Real Estate offered to provide it. The respite centre and day camp for special needs kids and young adults is partnering with the real estate company to host a bubble soccer tournament, with all proceeds to support the programs at Red Roof.

Bubble soccer, describes Red Roof's special events co-ordinator Claire Ellsworth, is like a regular

soccer game, with teams trying to kick a ball into a net - while wearing huge plastic soccer bubble suits from the neck up - the large inflatable balls leave players' legs free to run and score.

It's challenging, and it's hot, she says, but those who have tried it say it's lots of fun.

The event will be outdoors at Michelson Park in Niagara Falls Friday, July 10, with a rain location at the Niagara Falls Sportsplex.

Games run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., with up to 16 teams participating.

Refreshments will be provided.

Games will run tournament-style, so each team will have their time to shine, says Ellsworth, and as teams are eliminated, members will also have a chance to roll a race in a Zorb: a giant inflatable human hamster ball.

Red Roof's fundraising goal is \$16,000 - each team is encouraged to raise \$1,000, although if they don't reach that goal, they can still participate, says Ellsworth.

To register or for more details, call Red Roof at 289-868-9800 or MoveLight at 289-434-4241, or visit <http://www.redroofretreat.com/bubble-soccer-tournament/>.



Red Roof Retreat staff try out bubble soccer at the Niagara Falls Sportsplex.

Photo submitted

Niagara-on-the-Lake Worship Directory

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH
145 York Road, St. David's
905-862-9342
www.stdavid-queenston.ca
Worship New First Service

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CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
www.ccschurch.ca • 905-468-7155

Sunday, July 5th
10 am Worship Gathering & Kids Ministry
Message by: Kevin Bayne, Pastor
Title: The Holy Spirit: Promised

Niagara Hatted Mennonite Church
"Let Life With Us"

Worship Service
10:00 am

http://www.redbrickchurch.ca

Pastors:
Rudy & Sharon Dicks,
Shaylen Cox
1775 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-3313

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2027 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-2611 or 905-468-9673
10:00 am Worship Service
Pastor Larry Ritter - trinitynotl@coogee.ca

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Wednesday, Holy Trichasie 10 am
Sunday: Choral Eucharist 10 am
905-468-3123
Rector: The Rev. Canon Dr. Robert S.G. Wright
www.stmarks1792.com

GateWay Community Church
(P.A.O.C.)
1665 Four Mile Creek Road
905-468-8971
Sunday, July 5th • 10:30 am
July Theme:
"You Are What You Worship!"
Pastor Dave Turkitts Ministering
www.gatewaycc.ca
Check here for events and podcasts.

www.archbishopbiblechurch.org
 434 Hunter Rd.
ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH 905-468-5731

Sunday, July 5th
10:00 am - Message by Pastor Reid Cooke
"Finding The Missing Gem"
John 4:19-24
Nursery is provided during the message.

Amazing Grace United Church

10:30 a.m. Sunday Service
Minister: Rev. Laura Borgerson
Director of Music: Esther Gredeloch
222 Victoria Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-4044
www.graceunitedchurch.com

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Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-688-2525

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SK - Grade 6
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www.villagebiblechurch.ca

life abundant niagara
Pastor Rick Mills
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Please submit your resume, cover letter and salary expectations no later than July 23, 2015. We email only. To kellyb@lchsa.ca
Attention: Kevin Strooband,
Executive Director

Thank you to all applicants.
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HUNTER, Betty Margaret - Betty passed away peacefully on Monday, June 29th at Heritage Place, Virgil in her 90th year. Loving wife of Doug, mother of Lynn (Bill), Alan, Kathy and David (Carol), grandmother of Joanne, Trevor, Jessica, Matthew, Jared, Timothy, Danielle, and Kelly, great-grandmother of Hudson, Penny, Oakley and Elliott and loving aunt to 21 nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her parents Alice Mae and Charles Knox, brother, Doug and his wife Barbara. Betty was a lifelong resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Doug and Betty celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on Friday, June 12th. Betty was a devoted member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for all her married life where she volunteered for many hours with the Ladies Fellowship and the Strawberry Festival. Betty especially enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren and also the special holidays to Europe and Scotland to visit extended family. Special thanks to the nursing staff and the Personal Support Workers at Heritage Place for their patience and compassionate care of Betty. Family received friends at the **MORGAN FUNERAL HOME**, 415 Regent St. Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Tuesday, June 30th from 2-4 & 7-9. A service was held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, July 1st at 1:30 p.m., with cremation to follow. A private family interment will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church would be appreciated by the family.



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Thunderhawks win one, lose one in playoffs against Spartans

The Niagara Jr. B Thunderhawks Lacrosse Club drew their crosstown rivals, the St Catharines Spartans, in the first round of the playoffs.

The Thunderhawks sit at

17 wins, three losses for the season to date.

Game one in Niagara was a barn burner with two overtime periods required before the Spartans took the win 9-8.

Gates Abrams led the way with three goals and an assist for the T-Hawks. Brennan Ferguson added two markers with singles going to Connor Overstrom, Luc Chatelein and Austin

Wright.

Two nights later the Thunderhawks tied up the best of five series by winning 9-8 in regulation.

Wade Kenny scored the winner with 1:35 left in the

third. Abrams added two power play goals and Brad Thomas, Zac Dubuc, Seth Ferguson, Rob McMicking and John Wagner tallied singles.

Game 3 was going to be

played Tuesday in Niagara, game four is Friday, July 3 at the Merritt Arena at 8 p.m. Game five, if required, will be back in Niagara at the Virgil arena on Sunday, July 5 at 7 p.m.



Diane Manjeet Kaur conducted her first yoga class for Niagara Nature Tour's Solstice Celebration, organized for the second year in NOTL by volunteer and NOTL resident Loretta Pietrobboni. Manjeet, who owns Shine on Yoga in Niagara Falls, led 11 people through her gentle class that was attended by some of her students. This was the second annual Summer Solstice, Drumming Down the Sun held in NOTL, but the first year at Ryerson Park where one can see the sunset. Niagara Nature Tours also organizes solstice events in Port Dalhousie and the Charles Daly Park in Jordan.

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